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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

9797 Aero Drive
San Diego, California 92123
February 25, 2008

Mr. Paul A. Beeson
Chief Patrol Agent - Yuma Sector
Department of Homeland Security
United States Customs and Border Protection/Border Patrol
4035 South Avenue A
Yuma, Arizona 85365

Dear Chief Beeson,

On January 19, 2008, United States Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar, assigned to the Yuma Station, Impact Unit, was struck and killed by the vehicle of a drug smuggler attempting to avoid apprehension.

The vehicle traveled at a high rate of speed through a heavily populated recreation area while evading United States Border Patrol Agents in pursuit. Agents Aguilar and Burgoin attempted to stop the vehicle by placing a Controlled Tire Deflation Device in front of its path. The driver of the vehicle, without slowing, steered in the direction of the agents and struck Agent Aguilar throwing him nearly thirty feet and killing him instantly. The vehicle then proceeded into Mexico and the pursuit was discontinued.

On that date, the Federal Bureau of Investigation initiated an investigation of the killing of a Federal officer, United States Border Patrol, Senior Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar. With the assistance and response of your agency, the FBI was able to quickly develop, pursue and corroborate many leads related to the investigation. A suspect was identified and pursued for criminal prosecution. This could not have happened without the coordination and efforts of your leadership personnel and agents in the field.


I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for the support the United States Border Patrol Yuma Sector provided to the FBI, Imperial County Resident Agency while conducting this investigation. Your agent's information and knowledge of the area's drug trafficking organizations and methodology has been invaluable. Information sharing, planning and tactical response to needs of the investigation were quick and efficient.

The cooperation and assistance your agents extended was exceptional and they should be commended. Please convey my sincere appreciation in particular to members of the Yuma Sector Critical

Incident Investigation Team (CIIT) for their assistance with documentation of the crime scene and canvass of the area for witnesses to this crime. Also, thank you to members of the Sector Impact Team for their assistance and to the Special Response Team (SRT) who provided security for the agents processing the crime scene.

We look forward to continued relations and a positive resolution to this violent crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Slotter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Slotter
Special Agent in Charge